

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 USIE-00
ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02
NSCE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 OIC-02 /111 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5343
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

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USEEC
IO FOR ASST SECY MAYNES, DALLEY, MILLS
S/IL FOR DALE GOOD
DEPT PASS LABOR FOR SECY MARSHALL, HOWARD SAMUEL, JAMES
QUACKENBUSH
COMMERCE FOR SECY KREPS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO
SUBJECT: IMEC MEETING ON STRUCTURAL REFORM

REF: GENEVA 1299

SUMMARY: AT A MEETING OF THE IMEC REPRESENTATIVES IN

GENEVA, JANUARY 31, TO CONSIDER ILO STRUCTURE, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT, WITH THE U.S. NO LONGER AS A MEMBER OF THE ILO, THE COURSE OF ACTION ALREADY AGREED TO BY THE EC-9 WAS GOING TO BECOME ESSENTIALLY THE IMEC POSITION. END SUMMARY

1. LEADING OFF THE DISCUSSION, DANISH AMBASSADOR KASTOFT, SPEAKING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EC-9, EXPRESSED REGRET THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EC-9 AND THE U.S. PROPOSAL DURING MEETINGS OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS OF THE IMEC WORKING GROUP ON STRUCTURE. AFTER ASKING ESPECIALLY FOR U.S. UNDERSTANDING OF THE DILEMMA CONFRONTING THOSE WHO MUST NEGOTIATE THIS PROBLEM, HE WENT ON TO REQUEST SUPPORT FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE IMEC COUNTRIES FOR THE EC-9 PROPOSAL. HE ASSERTED CATEGORICALLY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PROCEED ONLY ON THE BASIS OF RESPECT FOR THE AUTONOMY OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS AND WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT CONCESSIONS ON ARTICLE 7 WOULD ONLY BE MADE IF THESE WERE BALANCED BY CONCESSIONS FROM THE OTHER SIDE ON SUCH THINGS AS ARTICLE 17, COMPLIANCE, QUORUM, ETC.

2. SPEAKING FOR THE UNITED STATES, AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL REITERATED ALL OF THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL. HE SAID THAT THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL ARE (A) TO KEEP THE VOTING MEMBERSHIP OF THE GOVERNING BODY (GB) TO A MINIMUM LEVEL AND (B) TO PROTECT THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THE IMEC COUNTRIES. THE EC PROPOSAL, HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SAID, WILL

- (A) CONVERT THE GB INTO A MINI-CONFERENCE;
- (B) INVITE INSUPERABLE NEGOTIATING PROBLEMS WITH THE AFRICANS WHICH WILL LEAD TO UNACCEPTABLE DISTORTION OF THE CRITERIA BY WHICH THE MEMBERSHIP IS DIVIDED AMONG REGIONS;
- (C) GIVE DISPROPORTIONATE STRENGTH TO ASIA BECAUSE OF THE ENORMOUS POPULATION OF INDIA AND CHINA;
- (D) LEAD TO PRESSURES WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY WEAKEN IMEC STRENGTH AMONG THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL MEMBERS OF THE GB; AND
- (E) CREATE PRESSURE IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION TO ENLARGE THE NUMBER OF REGIONS.

3. IN THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH FOLLOWED, ALL IMEC COUNTRIES, WITH VARYING EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET AND RESERVATION, AGREED TO SUPPORT THE EC PROPOSAL. NORWAY SAID IT BASICALLY SUPPORTED THE EC PROPOSAL BUT STILL HAD RESERVATIONS ON SUB-PARAGRAPH E OF THAT PROPOSAL (THE CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATING SEATS) AND WOULD LIKE TO ABOLISH THE CONCEPT OF PERMANENT SEATS, AS PROVIDED IN SUB-PARAGRAPH F. THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR SAID HIS GOVERNMENT FELT STRONGLY

THAT THE SIZE OF THE GB SHOULD BE KEPT AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE, THAT IT WAS CONCERNED THE NUMBER OF REGIONS WOULD BE ENLARGED TO INCLUDE ONE FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND THAT MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ASSURE THE CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP OF STATES OF CHIEF INDUSTRIAL IMPORTANCE. HAVING MADE THIS BOW IN THE DIRECTION OF THE UNITED STATES HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE GOJ BASICALLY SUPPORTED THE G-77 PROPOSAL. THE NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE PROVISION FOR PERMANENT SEATS IN THE EC PROPOSAL (SUB-PARAGRAPH F) BUT OTHERWISE ENDORSED IT AS TIMELY AND NECESSARY. THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR SAID THE EC PROPOSAL WAS REALISTIC AND GOES IN THE RIGHT

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SSO-00 INRE-00 /109 W

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DIRECTION, ALTHOUGH HE WAS STILL WAITING FOR FORMAL IN-
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STRUCTION. THE SWISS ENDORSED THE EC PROPOSAL WITHOUT
RESERVATION. SWEDEN SUPPORTED IT BUT WITH DOUBTS ABOUT
SUB-PARAGRAPH F. AUSTRIA AND FINLAND ALSO HAD SMALL MIS-
GIVINGS ABOUT SUB-PARAGRAPH F BUT OTHERWISE SUPPORTED IT.
AUSTRALIA NOT ONLY SUPPORTED THE EC PROPOSAL BUT ASKED
THAT IT BECOME AN IMEC PROPOSAL. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF
CANADA, THE CHAIRMAN PROFOUNDLY REGRETTE THAT THE IMEC
COUNTRIES HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES
WITH THE UNITED STATES, THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT OTTAWA
AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE EC PROPOSAL BUT WITH RESER-
VATIONS.

4. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, DURING WHICH THE EC-9 CALLED
FOR CONTINUED CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE USG, THE
QUESTION WAS PUT AS TO WHETHER THE EC-9 PROPOSAL SHOULD
BECOME AN IMEC PROPOSAL. THIS WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO
WITH THE PROVISIO THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE PUT FORWARD TO THE
G-77 FOR AT LEAST ONE MORE FULL DAY DURING WHICH THIS
UNDERSTANDING WOULD BE CONFIRMED BY CAPITALS. IN THE
MEANTIME, THE CANADIAN CHAIRMAN PLANS TO CIRCULATE A
DRAFT LETTER THAT HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE EC-9 WHICH
WOULD FORWARD WHAT IS NOW AN IMEC PROPOSAL TO THE G-77.
THIS LETTER BEING SENT SEPTTEL. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: ELAB, ILO
To: STATE BRUSSELS
Type: TE
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